

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of December 29, 2006. Applicants thank the Examiner for the fruitful discussion regarding the claims of the present invention.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2, 9-14, 21-26, 33-38, 45-50, and 57-60 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. Claims 3-8, 15-20, 27-32, 39-44, and 51-56 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended *inter alia*, to reflect the scope of the examined invention. Support for the amendment to claims 37, 38, 45-50, and 57-60 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at paragraph number [0243]. The amendment to these claims was done solely to expedite prosecution.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Conclusion***

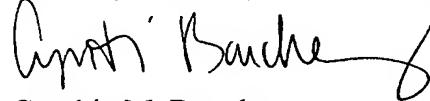
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for

allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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